

NORTHEASTERN TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

*Upon the subject of the Northeastern Territory of the United States,  
the title to which is still claimed by Great Britain.*

APRIL 5, 1836.

Read, and laid upon the table.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOSTON, *March 18, 1836.*

SIR: In compliance with the request of the Legislature of the Commonwealth, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a preamble and resolutions lately adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives on the subject of the unadjusted controversy between this country and Great Britain, relative to the northeastern boundary of the United States. I am well aware that the great importance of this question, in connection with the rights and interest of the people of Massachusetts, will give it the strongest claim to the attention of their representatives in either House of Congress. In performing the duty devolved upon me by the request of the Legislature, I beg leave to subscribe myself

With high respect, your obedient servant,

EDWARD EVERETT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, A. D. 1836.

Resolves concerning the northeastern territory of the United States claimed by Great Britain.

Whereas a large tract of the northeastern territory of the United States, belonging in common to the States of Maine and Massachusetts, and lying within the limits of the former State, has, for many years past, in consequence of a claim of Great Britain, been surrendered to the exclusive custody of the British Government; and whereas it appears from the report of a committee appointed by the last legislature of this Commonwealth, to make personal examination into the state of our public lands, that great inconveniences and gross abuses have resulted from so valuable a portion of our domain being left in the keeping of agents over whom we have no control: therefore

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*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,* That, in the opinion of this Legislature, it is due to the rights and interests of Maine and Massachusetts that measures should be taken by the Executive of the United States to secure a speedy settlement of this long protracted controversy, so that these States may be reinstated in the enjoyment of that property which was so long in their undisputed possession, and which is so indisputably theirs.

*Resolved,* That in case there be a prospect of further unavoidable delay in the settlement of this controversy, it is essential to the ends of justice that measures should be taken by the Executive of the United States to obtain a representation of the interests and rights of Maine and Massachusetts in the agency and guardianship of the territory in question.

*Resolved,* That his Excellency the Governor is hereby requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Executive of the United States, to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Governor of the State of Maine.

In Senate, March 1, 1836. Passed—sent down for concurrence.

HORACE MANN, *President.*

House of Representatives, March 12, 1836. Passed in concurrence.

JULIUS ROCKWELL, *Speaker.*

COUNCIL CHAMBER, March 14, 1836. Approved.

EDWARD EVERETT.

A copy.

Attest: JOHN P. BIGELOW,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*